38.

A

LETTER

to a Friend in the

COUNTRY,

Concerning the Prorogation of the

PARLIAMENT,

On *Munday Jan.* the 10th. $16\frac{80}{81}$.

SIR,

HEaring the diſmal news of the Parliaments Prorogation much to my amazement, together with many others; eſpecially conſidering the hazardous caſe of the Nation, and the ſtupendious Fears poſſeſſing the minds of the People, which by this Tranſaction are much aggravated, but the way to a calm is thorough Tempeſts: Truly Sir, It can't be imagined otherwiſe, then that the diſſolution of the laſt Parliament was much to the loſs and detriment of the Popiſh intereſt; this being very much cleared from the droſs of unbyaſſed intereſt and principles of ſelve-love giving motion to ſelfiſh ends. For Sir, It can't be denied but that amongſt this laſt were many brave men of Eſtates, who endeavoured to maintain the Proteſtant Cauſe with diſ-intereſſed Affections; As alſo to their utmoſt, bended their forces againſt the Roman Catholick Cauſe and Intereſt, who neither were Worſhippers of the Beaſt, or of his Image. Sir, Pray pardon me, let it be ſaid of them, *ad famam perpetuam*, that they were men hating Popery, and all the wicked Tenets of the Romiſh Church, who hold it conformable to the Rules of Sanctity, to Murder others under the Notion of Hereticks, *O nefas Infandum!* But the Noble Gentlemen of our Parliament proved themſelves favourers of the Hereticks, and their Noble Actings make it

evident they were the ſame ſort: And indeed Sir, thoſe who I durſt averr (*ab imo pectoris*) cordially to endeavour the good of both King and Country. But Alas! After their honeſt endeavours and briſk Actings are now diſmiſſed, but I can't but commend them, they ſtood it out, even when they were, I will not ſay, (*in punctum mori*) and at their laſt gaſp, but perhaps in a fair way thereunto, they breathed out *faithful to the Proteſtant Intereſt*, and ſo departed; to the trouble of many, what end it may produce is paſt our knowledge. But the poor City is amazed, and ſundry perſons you know make ſundry conſtructions, but however the end of all things is with God; and if it be for our good let us be thankful, but if not, let us hope, *dabit Deus his quoque finem*, they are not for ever, and the deſigns of our ſweet tempered Prince, are *nobis ignota*, hidden from us: But let what will be our lot, let us endeavour to obtain ſubmiſſion to the Divine pleaſure. And indeed Sir, it's our duty to prepare for what may fall upon us, that we may not ſay we had no notice: God hath let out his Torch in the Heavens to be an object of the viſion of our Eyes, and the ſerious contemplation and conſideration of our minds, but we hope *Babylon* will fall, but there I deſiſt at preſent; and ſo long as theſe honeſt and good Repreſentatives were in the exerciſe of their Parliamentary power, they neither acted like Novices or Cowards, or like men byaſſed by baſe ſelfiſh intereſt, but purely for the love of their King & Country, to whom their Love proved ſo True and Faithful as to run thorough any difficulty though never ſo daring. In a Word Sir, they were men (thorough the Divine benediction of Almighty God) ſpirited for that Work for which they were appointed, and wherein they acted, and that like men, ay and wiſe men and not fools, but after all comes the heavy news of a Prorogation, but it is for ten days according to common report, and in the mean time let us be ſilent, and chearfully ſubmit, and pray that God would then Graciouſly be pleaſed to put it into the heart of our King to let them Re-Aſſemble, and Sit proſperouſly to Set up the Proteſtant Intereſt, and to ruine the Anti-Chriſtian, which would be to the Comfort of all good Proteſtants, as alſo of *Sir*,

Jan. the 11th. 16$\frac{80}{81}$.

Your Servant in Willingneſs.

133144